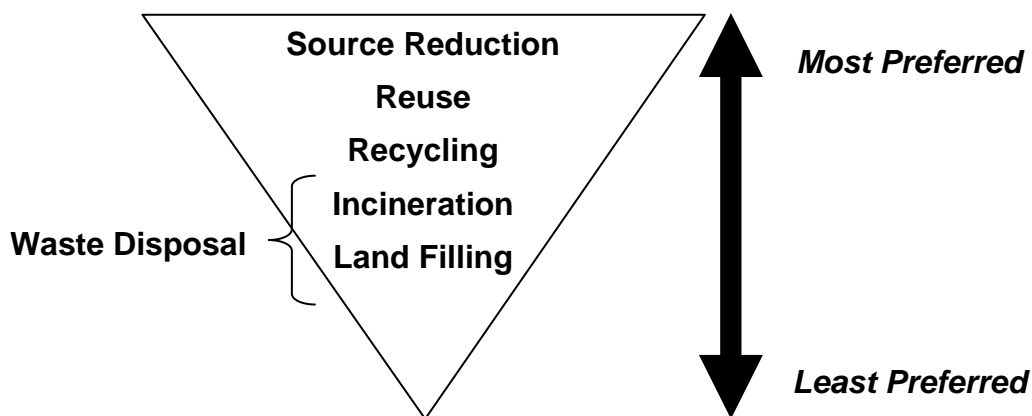




Solid Waste Management

When you put your trash, yard waste and recycling at the curb do you know where it goes? There is a lot more to solid waste management than just picking up trash at the curb. In 2004, each jurisdiction in Virginia was required by law to adopt a 20-Year Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) establishing goals and strategies for the operational and financial management of its Solid Waste Management system. The SWMP follows a hierarchy establishing a preferred order of management.



At the top of this tiered approach is the preferred alternative – to not generate waste in the first place – source reduction. This prevents the need for collection, transport and disposal. According to the EPA’s “*National Source Reduction Characterization Report for Municipal Solid Waste in the United States*”, the benefits of source reduction greatly outweigh those of recycling, incineration, and landfiling by reducing energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and other environmental impacts.

In developing our SWMP, staff and City Council worked with a Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee (comprised of key community stake holders) to identify two strategic goals.

- 1) Become a community of citizens whose actions reflect an ethic of resource conservation and waste minimization.
- 2) Develop and maintain a secure, cost-effective, environmentally sound and resource-efficient solid waste management program.

The plan that resulted from this work describes an integrated solid waste management strategy with the solid waste management hierarchy as a central tenet. The plan points to source reduction, reuse, and increased waste stream diversion through recycling as key elements in a sustainable solid waste management infrastructure.

As part of our state mandated requirements, the City must maintain a recycling rate of at least 25% (25% of our solid waste stream must be diverted to recycling). Falls Church is doing well in this regard and consistently maintains a recycling rate greater than 50% with a program participant rate of almost 90% (9 out of 10 curbside households place recycling at the curb). However, in order to move forward with our SWMP goals, source reduction must become the focus of future solid waste management in the City.

To view the Solid Waste Management Plan, visit www.fallschurchva.gov and look under Recycling or visit the Department of Environmental Services Office (3rd floor of the West Wing, 300 Park Ave).

Scrap Metal Recycling, Leaf Mulch & Wood Chips Now Available at Falls Church Recycling Center

The City of Falls Church Recycling Center, located at 217 Gordon Road, has expanded to offer customers a place to drop off small scrap metal items and to pick up small quantities of leaf mulch and wood chips. Businesses and residents may use the Recycling Center free of charge, 7 days a week, 7 a.m. to dusk. Please follow the guidelines listed below for each acceptable item. Call 703-248-5176 (TTY 711) for more information.

DROP-OFF

NEW

Scrap Metal - Acceptable items include: siding, bed frames, fencing, chairs, shelves, tire rims, ladders, pipe, microwaves, coat hangers and other items made of metal. Do not include non-metallic items, air conditioners with refrigerant, fire extinguishers, propane tanks or other hazardous material. Metal items must be small enough to self-load into the container.

Mixed Containers - Acceptable items: plastic bottles and jugs [#1-7], glass bottles and jars, metal food and beverage cans, and wide-mouth plastic containers such as yogurt tubs. Rinse items and remove from bags.

Mixed Paper & Cardboard - Acceptable items: flattened cardboard, colored paper, office paper, junk mail, paperboard (cereal boxes, cracker boxes etc.), paperback books (books in good condition may be donated to the Mary Riley Stiles Public Library). Remove items from plastic bags.

Newspaper - Acceptable items: all newspaper and inserts. Remove items from plastic bags.

PICK-UP

NEW

Leaf Mulch – Self-load small quantities of leaf mulch. Bring your own container and pitch fork. Leaf mulch is produced from double-ground leaves that were vacuumed from the streets in the fall by the City's Operations Division. Leaf mulch is an excellent soil amendment as it retains moisture and adds valuable nutrients to the soil. Available while supplies last.

NEW

Wood Chips – Self-load small quantities of wood chips. Bring your own container and pitch fork. Wood chips are a product of tree pruning and tree removal done by the City's Urban Forestry Division. These wood chips are not landscape quality and should not be used as a soil amendment. Wood chips may be used to: Create pathways and unpaved parking/driveway areas; cover bare soil and areas that have frequent erosion issues; help manage invasive plants such as English ivy when applied after a removal event; preserve trees during construction activities when applied as a "mulch pad" for equipment to travel across the tree's root zone.

Watershed News

May is Watershed and Floodplain Awareness Month

No matter where you live, work or play, you are always in a watershed. A watershed is an area of land that drains to a body of water (e.g., river, stream, lake, bay, ocean...). On its journey across roofs, driveways, roads, and other hard surfaces, rainwater picks up pollution. Rainwater becomes "stormwater" as it travels into streets and down storm drain openings that lead directly to Falls Church streams and eventually to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Our behaviors have a direct impact on our local water quality. Litter, fertilizer, pesticides, motor oil, dog waste and other hazards reach our streams and rivers because of poor management practices. Help celebrate Watershed Awareness Month by limiting the use of lawn and garden chemicals, pledging to pick up after your pets, checking your car for oil leaks and picking up litter.

Look for a survey in the mail from George Mason High School students about behaviors that affect water quality. The results of the survey will help the Department of Environmental Services focus water quality outreach and education materials.



Mark Your Calendar

Visit "**Growing Green**" at www.fallschurchva.gov for information about environmental events.

SPRING CLEANUP & PICNIC

April 18, 10:30 a.m. - Join in the fun by working together at the City's 21st Annual Spring Cleanup. Come to the Community Center (223 Little Falls) at 10:30 a.m. on April 18 to register for a work team. After a morning of litter pickup, return for a delicious "thank you" picnic with food provided by local Falls Church restaurants. Call 703-248-5176 (TTY 711) to register.



RECYCLING EXTRAVAGANZA

April 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Bring your used computers and other electronics, clothing and textiles, bicycles, printer cartridges, eyeglasses, hearing aids, portable sewing machines, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, strollers and more to the Falls Church Recycling Center & Property Yard (217 Gordon Road). **Paper shredding** sponsored by PNC Bank. Bring up to 3 file boxes of paper for secure shredding. For a complete list of acceptable items, visit www.fallschurchva.gov.

NEIGHBORHOOD TREE PLANTING EVENTS

Saturdays, April 25 and May 30, 9:30 a.m. to noon - Lend a hand to plant street trees in the City. These trees will help clean the air and water, and provide shade to streets, thereby reducing the "heat island effect." For meeting location and more information call 703-248-5183 (TTY 711).

NORTHERN VIRGINIA RAIN BARREL PROGRAM

Spring & Summer 09 - Register for a workshop to make and take home a rain barrel or register to pickup a premade rain barrel at one of our regional events. Rain barrels are used to collect rooftop runoff for use in garden watering and other outdoor activities. Visit www.arlingtonenvironment.org/barrel.htm or call 703-324-1428 (Soil and Water Conservation District) to register or for more information.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

June 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Household Hazardous Waste will be accepted free of charge from City of Falls Church residents (proof of residency required (e.g. vehicle decal, drivers license, utility bill) at the Property Yard (across from the Recycling Center, 217 Gordon Rd). See www.fallschurchva.gov. **Note:** Latex paint is not hazardous but does require special handling. Call 703-248-5176 (TTY 711) for more information.

GROWING GREEN LECTURE SERIES

Spring 09 - The Urban Forestry Division, the Department of Environmental Services, and the Recreation and Parks Division, host a lecture series called "**Growing Green**". The free lectures and demonstrations focus on horticulture, arboriculture, conservation, and the natural environment. Visit www.fallschurchva.gov for more information. Register at <https://webtrac.fallschurchva.gov> or call 703-248-5077 (TTY 711) for more information.

HABITAT RESTORATION EVENTS

First Saturday of Each Month, 10 a.m. to noon - Join the Falls Church Habitat Restoration Team as they restore local ecosystems by removing harmful invasive plants and replanting with native plants that benefit local wildlife. Join us in Cherry Hill Park on May 2nd and in Hamlett / Rees Tract Park on June 6th. Bring your own gloves and pruners and wear long pants and sleeves. For more information call 703-248-5016 (TTY 711).



CURBSIDE RECYCLING IS "SINGLE-STREAM"!

Place all recyclable items including: paper and cardboard; plastic, glass and metal containers; rigid plastics; plastic bags; gable-top cartons; and more in the same recycling bin. For a complete list of acceptable items visit www.fallschurchva.gov or pick up a brochure in City Hall (300 Park Avenue).

To request a second bin or a replacement bin call 703-248-5176 (TTY 711).

Important Information

PHONE NUMBERS

Recycling Coordinator 703-248-5176
Solid Waste Collection..... 703-248-5316
Solid Waste Enforcement 703-248-5281
Special Bulk Collection 703-534-6509
Brush & Yard Waste Collection 703-248-5316
DES Operations..... 703-248-5081
DES Engineering & Construction..... 703-248-5080
Hazardous Material Spill..... 911
Non-Hazardous Material Spill 703-228-4644
The Virginia Relay System for those who use text telephones or telebraille is TTY 711.

FALLS CHURCH RECYCLING CENTER

217 Gordon Road, Falls Church
Open 7 days a week, 7 a.m. to dusk
Call: 703-248-5176 (TTY 711)
Free for residential and business use.
Accepts: Mixed containers (plastic bottles & jugs, wide-mouth yogurt & butter tubs, glass bottles & jars, metal food & beverage cans), mixed paper, newspaper, cardboard, scrap metal and textiles. Leaf mulch and wood chips are available for self-haul while supplies last.

FAIRFAX COUNTY TRANSFER STATION

4618 W. Ox Road, Fairfax
Open 7 days a week
Call: 703-631-1179 (TTY 711)
Accepts: Mixed containers, newspaper, cardboard, mixed paper, used motor oil & antifreeze, auto batteries, scrap metal (including appliances), yard waste, household refuse. Free for residential use, except for yard waste, refuse and appliances.

PERMANENT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

At Fairfax County Transfer Station (see above)
Call: 703-324-5068 (TTY 711)
Open Thursday 1-5 PM, Fridays 8 AM – noon, Saturdays 8 AM – 4 PM, Sundays 9 AM – 4 PM. Free for residential use.

Holiday Schedule

- **MAY 25 (MON)** - No yard waste, bundled brush or special collections.
- **JULY 3 (FRI)** - No recycling or refuse. Collection for Friday collection area will occur on **JULY 2 (THURS)**.

Energy News

Earth Hour Falls Church

City Council proclaimed March 28, 2009 as "Earth Hour in Falls Church." Earth Hour is a world-wide symbolic event organized by the World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness about climate change and to encourage individuals, businesses, and governments to take actions to reduce their carbon emissions and their impact on the environment. To promote City-wide energy conservation, the City extinguished non-essential lighting in City Hall and other government and school buildings during the hour between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. on March 28.

What can you do every day? Try these energy saving tips at home to help protect our climate and save your dollars:

No Cost:

- Turn down your water heater thermostat to 120 °F or the lowest setting.
- Turn down your thermostat when you go to bed and when you're away from home.
- Close heating vents and turn off lights in unused rooms

Low Cost:

- Switch to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, especially for your 5 most used bulbs.
- Find and seal the biggest air leaks in you attic and basement, and around windows and doors.
- Change the air filters in you furnace at least twice a year.
- Install insulating wrap for your hot water heater and insulate the first 3-4 feet of hot water pipe leaving your hot water heater.

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document will be made available in alternate format upon request. Call 703-248-5176 (TTY 711).

The City does not sponsor or endorse any of the businesses or non-governmental organizations listed in this publication.

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